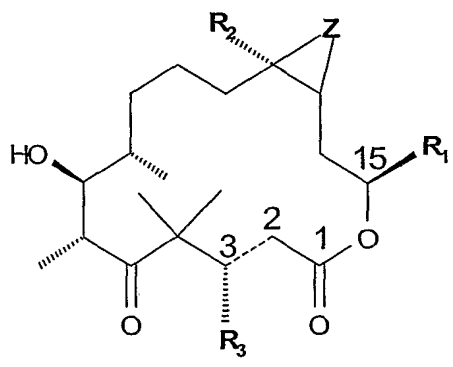
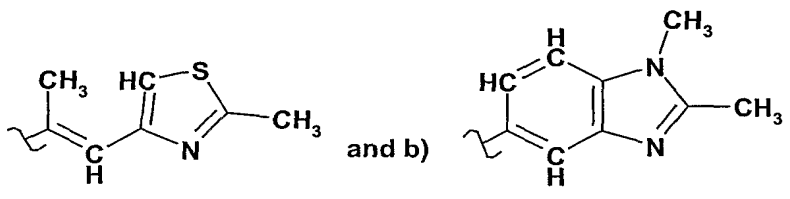


What is claimed is:

1. A compound of formula I



Wherein

 R_1 is selected from a) R_2 is lower alkyl or hydrogen R_3 is OH or hydrogen;

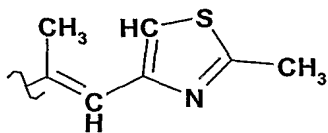
Z is O, C or -Z- is a bond between the two binding carbon atoms;

is a single or double bond between C2 and C3;

or salts thereof;

with the proviso that when R_1 is a, R_3 is hydrogen and that when R_1 is b, Z is O or a bond,
and R_2 is methyl R_3 is not OH.

2. A compound of formula I according to claim 1, wherein

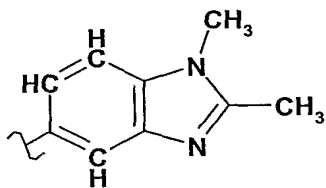
 R_1 is ; R_2 is lower alkyl preferably methyl R_3 is hydrogen;

Z is O or -Z- is a bond between the two binding carbon atoms;

is a single bond;

or salts thereof.

3. A compound of formula I according to claim 1, wherein



R_1 is ;

R_2 is lower alkyl or hydrogen

R_3 is OH or hydrogen;

Z is O, C or $-Z-$ is a bond between the two binding carbon atoms;

--- is a single or double bond;

or salts thereof;

with the proviso that when R_2 is methyl and Z is O or a bond R_3 is not OH.

4. A compound of formula I according to claim 1 selected from,

(Z)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-8-Hydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-16-[(E)-1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-vinyl]-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-11-Hydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-3-[(E)-1-methyl-2-(2-methyl-thiazol-4-yl)-vinyl]-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

(Z)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9,13-pentamethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12,16-pentamethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

(E)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;

(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxa-bicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;

16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;
3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;
(E)-(4S,7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-4,8-dihydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadec-13-ene-2,6-dione;
(1S,3S,7S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;
(3E,13E)-(7R,8S,9S,16S)-16-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-8-hydroxy-5,5,7,9-tetramethyl-oxacyclohexadeca-3,13-diene-2,6-dione;
(E)-(1S,3S,10R,11S,12S,16S)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-11-hydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4,17-dioxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadec-6-ene-5,9-dione;
3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4-oxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione;and
(1S,3S,7S,10R,11S,12S,16R)-3-(1,2-Dimethyl-1H-benzoimidazol-5-yl)-7,11-dihydroxy-8,8,10,12-tetramethyl-4-oxabicyclo[14.1.0]heptadecane-5,9-dione

5. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a compound of formula I, or a salt thereof, provided that salt-forming groups are present, according to one of claims 1 to 4, and one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers.

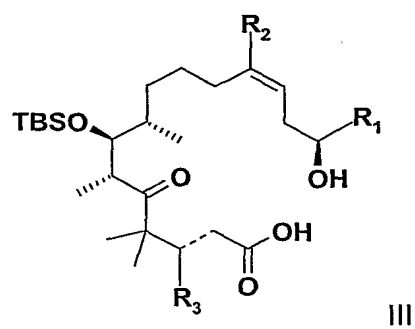
6. A compound of formula I according to one of claims 1 to 4, for use in a process for the diagnostic or therapeutic treatment of humans.

7. Use of a compound of formula I according to one of claims 1 to 4, for the preparation of a pharmaceutical product for the treatment of a tumour disease.

8. Use of a compound of formula I according to one of claims 1 to 4, as a pharmaceutical.

9. Process for the preparation of a compound of formula I according to claim 1, characterised in that a compound of formula I may be prepared by ring closure of a compound of formula III

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followed by deprotection steps where necessary, wherein

R₁, R₂ and R₃ have the meaning defined in claim 1.